United Nations

S/PV.3982

Security Council

Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

3982nd Meeting

Thursday, 25 February 1999, 3.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Fowler	(Canada)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Petrella
	Bahrain	Mr. Al-Dosari
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Slovenia	Mr. Türk
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Burleigh

Agenda

The situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force pursuant to Security Council resolution 1186 (1998) (S/1999/161)

99-85149 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 3.50 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force pursuant to Security Council resolution 1186 (1998) (S/1999/161)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Bulgaria, Germany, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Čalovski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. Sotirov (Bulgaria), Mr. Kastrup (Germany) and Mr. Fulci (Italy) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force pursuant to Security Council resolution 1186 (1998), document S/1999/161.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1999/201, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/1999/108, which contains the text of a letter dated 2 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

(*spoke in English*)

The first speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Argentina, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Petrella (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Security Council is meeting today to consider the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It has before it the important report of the Secretary-General (S/1999/161) on the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), as well as the letter of 29 January from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, contained in document S/1999/108, whose content clearly reflects the current complicated situation.

Furthermore, in the conclusions of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that events in the region — some very recent events were reported today during our consultations — suggest the need to extend the presence of UNPREDEP for a further six-month period.

For those reasons, Argentina firmly supports the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to which it has contributed observers since December 1995. We are convinced that UNPREDEP represents one of the Security Council's central efforts for peace in the region, particularly at a time when delicate and complex negotiations are taking place with regard to the situation in Kosovo.

As the Secretary-General indicated in his report, the presence of UNPREDEP in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has an effect that is both preventive and stabilizing. The fact that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not felt the repercussions of the conflicts that have affected and continue to affect neighbouring countries and regions is clear proof that UNPREDEP is fulfilling its mandate in a completely effective manner. Because the situation in Kosovo has not yet been resolved, the presence of UNPREDEP, which is a preventive Force, constitutes an irreplaceable reassurance.

Equally important is the mandate that this Council gave to UNPREDEP to monitor illicit flows of arms and other activities prohibited under resolution 1160 (1998). It is a well-known fact that illegal arms flows exacerbate the intensity of conflicts, creating tragic circumstances that hamper reconciliation and peace processes.

In the light of all this, we support the extension of UNPREDEP's mandate for a further six-month period, until 31 August 1999, with its present composition and mandate.

In conclusion, I should like to congratulate and express my confidence in the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Fernando Valenzuela Marzo, to Force Commander Brigadier-General Ove Strømberg and to their staff for their efforts and dedication in the accomplishment of this very important mission.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Čalovski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): Let me start by expressing my delegation's great satisfaction at seeing you, Sir, the Permanent Representative of Canada, a country with which the Republic of Macedonia has traditionally enjoyed excellent relations, presiding over the Security Council for the month of February.

The Security Council will decide today whether the United Nations will continue with its very important contribution to peace and security in the region of my country, the Republic of Macedonia, in the currently troubled Balkans.

At this moment, it can be argued at length that the contribution of the United Nations is more necessary than when the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) last year.

It is common knowledge why it should do so. I will avoid elaborating on that. The main reasons for the Council to decide in favour of extension are clearly spelt out in the letter of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Aleksandar Dimitrov, dated 29 January 1999, contained in document S/1999/108, and in the Secretary-General's report to the Council on the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force, contained in document S/1999/161 of 12 February 1999.

We are pleased with the Secretary-General's recommendation contained in paragraph 34 of his report that

> "the Security Council may wish to consider extending the presence of UNPREDEP, with its existing mandate and composition, for a further period of six months until 31 August 1999". *(S/1999/161, para. 34)*

We are also pleased that the members of the Security Council during the process of consultations have supported the Secretary-General's recommendations.

I would like to use this opportunity to underline that UNPREDEP is discharging its mandate successfully and that the cooperation with Macedonia and other international organizations is exemplary and good. I would like to express our satisfaction with the work of the present head of the mission, Mr. Valenzuela Marzo, and with his predecessor, Mr. Henryk Sokalski. I would also like to express the same satisfaction with the work of the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Ove Strømberg, and of course with all the military and civilian personal under their command.

Indeed, the Security Council should be pleased with the dedication that all the members of the mission have shown in carrying out the task entrusted to them. I am sure that this cooperation and the carrying out of this task will continue successfully in the period to come.

Since I have the floor, I would like to say a few words about the situation in our region. My comments will contain nothing that is new to the members of the Council, but they are important for its records and for public opinion at large.

The situation continues to be very difficult, dangerous and unpredictable, and it can be safely considered a serious threat to the peace and security of the Balkans. The possibility of a new bloody war in the Balkans should be considered a real one. There remain unacceptable options of violence, of the use of force and of achieving something by military means and not through diplomatic and political means. I regret to say that the forces of peace, particularly in Kosovo, are weak, and it is of paramount importance that they be strengthened. In that human and political effort the United Nations and Member States of this Organization, individually or collectively, should take part — I repeat, should take part.

In sum, the United Nations should not abandon the region, should not run from the troubles and should prevent the worst from happening. Extension of the mandate of UNPREDEP should be seen, therefore, as providing important support to the peace forces in the region. It should be seen as a must for our Organization. At this moment, prevention of a new war in the Balkans is of utmost urgency and a very serious obligation of the Security Council under the Charter of the United Nations, in particular under Article 24, where the Council is requested, as I would like to underline, to act on behalf of the Member States. And I can safely state that the Member States fully support the extension of the mandate of the first successful preventive peacekeeping mission of the United Nations.

Let me add a few words more on this. As you know very well, the veto right has been extensively discussed in our Organization, particularly in recent years. The Member States, with the exception of a few, are in favour of not exercising this right that has been entrusted to the permanent members of the Security Council. The main reason, or argument, against the use of the veto has been and is now that the Security Council under the United Nations Charter acts on behalf of the Member States, not of an individual Member State. In the case of UNPREDEP it should be noted quite strongly that the extension of its mandate is supported by all — I repeat, all — Member States except one, and that because of bilateral considerations, something that we all consider to be in full contradiction of the Charter of our Organization.

I will end my statement by expressing the hope that the Council will adopt a resolution in support of the Secretary-General's recommendation, in favour of peace in the region, in favour of continuing the important and successful work of UNPREDEP. In Macedonia in such a situation we say that it is never too late to take a positive step.

The President: I thank the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for his kind words addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): The principled approach of the Russian Federation to assessing the priorities of the activities of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force at this stage is well known and has repeatedly been described by the Russian delegation in the Security Council. We view this United Nations operation as an important element of the system to monitor compliance with the arms embargo and with the ban on external assistance to terrorist activities in Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in accordance with Council resolution 1160 (1998).

The period since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1186 (1998), which made the relevant monitoring tasks part of the Force's mandate, has given ample evidence of the growing urgency of this work. In monitoring the observance of the arms embargo and other injunctions established by resolution 1160 (1998), this Force is making an important contribution to stabilizing the situation in Kosovo and to the success of international efforts to achieve a peaceful political settlement of the crisis, as well as to guarantee the security and stability of the entire Balkan region.

Our position is that the functions of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) involved in monitoring compliance with the arms embargo and with the injunctions established by resolution 1160 (1998) should become the main component of UNPREDEP's activities, and this should be more clearly highlighted in the mandate of this operation.

Guided by this approach, the Russian delegation proposed corresponding amendments to the draft resolution on the extension of UNPREDEP's mandate, which is under consideration today. Unfortunately, these amendments were not duly reflected in the final text of the draft resolution, which does not fully take account of the importance of principle in reorienting UNPREDEP to monitor compliance with the arms embargo.

Under these circumstances, the Russian delegation will not be able to support the draft resolution.

The President: It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1999/201) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, France, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

China

Abstaining:

Russian Federation

The President: The result of the voting is as follows: 13 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention. The draft resolution has not been adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Security Council.

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Burleigh (United States of America): In casting its vote today, the United States has once again expressed its confidence in and its strong support for the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) and its extension for a further six-month period until August 1999. UNPREDEP plays a critical role in monitoring sensitive points along Macedonian borders with Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. UNPREDEP is a vital actor in promoting stability in the region.

Since achieving independence, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has made enormous strides towards democratization and economic stability. We welcome the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's recent strengthening of relations with several of its neighbours and the successful holding of parliamentary elections in October and November of 1998. These elections resulted in a pledge by the new coalition Government — which continues to include an ethnic-Albanian political party — to carry on the important policy of working actively for inter-ethnic harmony.

Despite these improvements, however, there remain very real regional threats to the security of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In this context, we remain deeply troubled by the continuing strained relations between Skopje and Belgrade, and by the lack of progress towards the demarcation of their mutual border. This, in our view, continues to be a major potential threat to the stability of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. There is a distinct risk that tensions elsewhere in the region will reverberate along this border.

The international community is maintaining its large investment in consolidating peace and ending violence in the former Yugoslavia and nearby areas. Kosovo is only the most recent flashpoint posing a threat to stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Although considerable progress towards a negotiated political settlement of the Kosovo crisis was achieved at Rambouillet, much more will be required in the weeks and months ahead. In any event, we remain committed to building peace in the Balkans.

Skopje in turn has contributed greatly to the international community's efforts in Kosovo by facilitating the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Kosovo Verification Mission, by agreeing to authorize the deployment from its territory of the OSCE Extraction Force, and by offering to host the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Kosovo Verification Coordination Centre and the European Commission Monitoring Mission. UNPREDEP itself plays a specific but very important role in achieving the international community's goals for Kosovo. We greatly appreciate the value of close cooperation between UNPREDEP and each of these missions.

UNPREDEP's current mandate is to prevent the spillover of tensions into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and by its presence to deter threats and prevent clashes. This mandate has been sufficiently broad to permit UNPREDEP to operate very effectively in monitoring and reporting on cross-border activity. Such activity includes any illicit arms flows across the border with Kosovo, of which there has been very little. The fact that the border between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has remained secure despite tensions in Kosovo demonstrates just how successful and necessary UNPREDEP has been. Our vote today to extend UNPREDEP's mandate is a vote of confidence in a mission that is needed now as much as ever.

My Government very much regrets the decision by one member of the Council to exercise its veto with respect to this draft resolution. We believe the overall interests of security in the region — particularly during this sensitive period — should be sufficiently compelling

to outweigh other considerations. We believe UNPREDEP's role is indispensable at this time. Therefore, we hope to begin work immediately with members of the Security Council to find a way to allow the international community to continue to meet this critical need, without disruption.

The United States has been proud to participate in this groundbreaking preventive deployment operation. We commend Mr. Henryk Sokalski, the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General; his successor, Mr. Fernando Valenzuela Marzo; and the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Ove Strømberg, for their strong leadership of this highly effective mission.

Mr. Türk (Slovenia): Slovenia deeply regrets the fact that the Security Council was unable to adopt today the necessary decision to extend the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in Macedonia. It is regrettable that the Council is once again paralysed by the negative vote of a permanent member. The present situation may have a negative effect on developments in and around Macedonia and on the functioning of the Security Council as the principal United Nations organ entrusted with the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The situation in and around Macedonia is fraught with instability and potential threats, which call for an array of international responses, among them the preventive deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Macedonia. The Council will have to think deep and hard to find a way to continue to respond to this and other urgent needs of the situation at hand.

Today is also a sad day for the Security Council. The authority of the Council is being diminished as a result of a variety of factors, and Council members should make a special effort to reverse the current negative trends. It is essential that Council members deal with specific situations from the standpoint of ensuring peace and security in the world and from the perspective of the Organization as a whole. This is essential for the realization of the responsibility conferred upon the Council by the United Nations Member States and enshrined in Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. We reiterate this point, which has been made by several Council members on a number of occasions over the past few months. Furthermore, today's experience has strengthened our conviction that there is a real need for reform of the Security Council, including the reform of the right of veto.

We find ourselves in a situation in which we have to reflect seriously on the importance of UNPREDEP for the United Nations as a whole. UNPREDEP is a success story of United Nations peacekeeping and of the United Nations in general. It is a model of preventive deployment which should inspire the United Nations in dealing with a variety of incipient crisis situations in various parts of the world. In Macedonia, UNPREDEP has been operating since the country's independence. It has been playing a vital role in the stabilization of the situation along the Macedonian borders. Equally important is its civilian component, which is assisting in the efforts to ease the inter-ethnic tensions and in the application of the international standards of human rights.

The fact that UNPREDEP operates successfully in a European hotbed of tension is of importance to the United Nations in its effort to maintain its global role. Such a role requires the presence of the United Nations in all the regions of the world where threats to international peace persist. The situation in the immediate vicinity of Kosovo, which continues to represent a threat to peace and security in the region, gives additional importance and urgency to the role of UNPREDEP. At this critical moment for the efforts to stabilize Kosovo, the United Nations should not diminish its contribution to peace and security in that region.

For all these reasons, we hope that today's vote on UNPREDEP will not be the last decision of the Security Council related to the need to preserve and strengthen peace and security in and around Macedonia. Slovenia strongly supports the idea of continued consultations among the Security Council members and with Macedonia. These consultations must lead to an arrangement acceptable to Macedonia and the Security Council members and should ensure the continued pursuit of the tasks which made UNPREDEP necessary. We are determined to contribute our share to such an effort.

Mr. Qin Huasun (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): The Chinese delegation voted against the draft resolution a short while ago. We have always maintained that United Nations peacekeeping operations, including preventive deployment missions, should not be open-ended. The situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has apparently stabilized in the past few years, its relations with neighbouring countries have been improved, and peace and stability there have not been adversely affected by developments in that region. In his recent reports, including document S/1999/161 before us, the Secretary-General has clearly

indicated that the original goal of the Security Council in establishing the preventive mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has already been met. In this case, there is no need to extend further the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP).

I should also like to reiterate that Africa and other regions are still plagued by conflict and instability and need greater attention and contributions from the United Nations. In view of the Organization's current financial difficulties, it would be neither reasonable nor fair to continue to assess Member States for UNPREDEP. The already insufficient resources of the United Nations should be used where they are needed most.

UNPREDEP has contributed to the maintenance of a stable situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. China highly appreciates the contributions of the Secretary-General and others, including countries that have contributed troops to UNPREDEP.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Canada.

(spoke in French)

Today, Canada voted in favour of a mandate extension for the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In Canada's opinion, UNPREDEP's continued presence in Macedonia is essential at this critical juncture, given the continuing instability in the region, particularly in neighbouring Kosovo.

As the Secretary-General indicates in his report of 12 February, UNPREDEP has played an important role to this day in preventing the spillover of the wider Balkan conflict into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. UNPREDEP has been an unquestionable success to date, the first and unique example of preventive deployment under United Nations auspices. It is our sole reminder of the undeniable cost-effectiveness of prevention in all aspects of international peace and security. The success of the Force has been all the more impressive in light of the situation in Kosovo. Given this success and the region's instability, Canada strongly supports renewing UNPREDEP's mandate. We worked hard — unfortunately, to no avail — to convince the concerned parties to agree to the Force's extension and to overcome the bilateral concerns which threatened its continuation.

(spoke in English)

It is with keen disappointment that we note that, despite solid support for extending UNPREDEP, the Council was unable to do so as a result of the negative vote cast by China. In our view, arguments that conditions no longer warrant the presence of UNPREDEP simply cannot be sustained by an examination of the facts. We believe that China's decision, seemingly compelled by bilateral concerns unrelated to UNPREDEP, constitutes an unfortunate and inappropriate use of the veto. In this same light, we deeply regret that actions taken by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia precipitated the bilateral dispute leading to the present situation.

Canada is also deeply concerned that the inability of the Council to agree to a mandate extension for UNPREDEP, in spite of the clear need for such an extension and despite the expressed will of the vast majority of Council members, has set a negative precedent at this critical juncture for peace and stability in the Balkans. The credibility and authority of the Security Council may, we fear, suffer just when they are most needed in this region and beyond.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The Council has thus concluded its voting procedure.

The next speaker on my list is the representative of Germany, who will speak on behalf of the European Union. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kastrup (Germany): I speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia — and the associated country Cyprus, as well as the European Free Trade Association country members of the European Economic Area, Iceland and Norway.

The European Union fully supports the draft resolution which was put before the Council today. It continues to attach great importance to the role of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) as a stabilizing and peace-promoting

element in the geopolitical context of the region. UNPREDEP is the first preventive deployment force of the United Nations and, as such — and this is the generally accepted view — a great success. It can serve as a model for future such deployments. The European Union sees the value of UNPREDEP not only in its military component and its border monitoring, but also in its civilian efforts to promote understanding among the different ethnic groups in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The European Union considers that there exists a real danger of a spillover of the Kosovo crisis into neighbouring countries. The Rambouillet meeting has established a framework for a solution of the crisis, but has not yet brought the parties to full agreement.

The European Union therefore deeply regrets that China decided to veto the draft resolution on the extension of the mandate for another six months. At this crucial moment in the efforts to bring peace to Kosovo, the withdrawal of UNPREDEP should not be contemplated. We earnestly hope that an arrangement can be found within the next few days to prevent this from happening.

The EU points out that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security and that it carries out its duties on behalf of the United Nations membership as a whole. UNPREDEP has been mandated by the Security Council with precisely this responsibility in mind and, in particular, to serve the international interest in stability in the region to which the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia belongs.

The European Union sincerely hopes that all Governments concerned, both in the Security Council and in the region, will make every effort to maintain the United Nations current stabilizing presence in the region.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Bulgaria. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Sotirov (Bulgaria): As the Bulgarian delegation is taking the floor for the first time this month, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your competent and skilful guidance of the activities of the Security Council.

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union and fully shares the views contained therein. I shall therefore confine myself to some specific aspects of the issue under consideration. Those are related to the commitment and the efforts of Bulgaria as a neighbouring country in the search for long-term solutions to the conflicts and to the open issues in the western part of the region.

Our policy is aimed at achieving concrete results in strengthening the regional peace and security in South-Eastern Europe. An example of these efforts is the signing of the Bulgarian-Macedonian joint declaration three days ago by the Prime Ministers of the two countries. It settled the controversial issues and opened new prospects for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. It also made a valuable contribution to the stability and security of the region and set an example of how difficult problems can be overcome in a spirit of understanding and in the interests of the countries involved.

The peacekeeping activities of the United Nations are at a crucial juncture. The failure of some peacekeeping operations has tarnished the image of the Organization and has undermined its credibility in fulfilling one of the main purposes laid down in the Charter: the maintenance of international peace and security. It is therefore of utmost importance to preserve and, where necessary, to enlarge the mandates of those existing peacekeeping operations that have proved to be successful. Hence, it is regrettable that the Council was unable to adopt today a decision on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) for another period of six months.

Bulgaria is deeply concerned at the real possibility of a further escalation of the conflict in Kosovo if the current peace process fails to provide for a lasting solution. Such a situation requires that available means should be effectively used. One of them is UNPREDEP, which continues to be a stabilizing factor of prevention and deterrence.

Bulgaria strongly believes that the extension of the mandate of UNPREDEP is in the interest of peace and security in the area and that the present situation on the ground makes the withdrawal of the Force very untimely and inappropriate.

The President: I thank the representative of Bulgaria for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Qin Huasun (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): We have taken note of the statements made by several representatives. We believe that deciding one's own position on the merits of a matter is the right of every sovereign State.

Some countries made accusations against China. Those accusations are totally groundless.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3983

Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

3983rd Meeting
Friday, 26 February 1999, 10.40 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Fowler	(Canada)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Petrella
	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Kooijmans
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Slovenia	Mr. Türk
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Burleigh

Agenda

The situation in Angola

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) (S/1999/202)

99-85155 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Angola

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) (S/1999/202)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Angola and Zambia, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Carneiro (Angola) and Mr. Walubita (Zambia) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency General Higino Carneiro, the Vice-Minister for Territorial Administration of Angola, His Excellency Mr. Victor Lima, Adviser to the President for External Affairs, and the other members of the delegation of Angola.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency the Honourable Keli Walubita, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia, His Excellency the Honourable Dr. Katele Kalumba, the Minister for Home Affairs, His Excellency the Honourable Mr. Vernon J. Mwaanga, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the other members of the delegation of Zambia.

(*spoke in English*)

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/1999/203, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following other documents: S/1999/147, letter dated 12 February 1999 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola addressed to the President of the Security Council; S/1999/166, letter dated 18 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General; and S/1999/182, letter dated 20 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

The first speaker is the Vice-Minister for Territorial Administration of Angola, His Excellency General Higino Carneiro, on whom I now call.

Mr. Carneiro (Angola) (*spoke in Portuguese; interpretation furnished by the delegation*): On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola, I bring greetings to all members of this Council and express our heartfelt gratitude for the efforts that the Secretary-General and the Security Council have made for the reestablishment of peace and national reconciliation in Angola.

This moment, perhaps, would have been an excellent opportunity for Angolans, the United Nations, Africa and the international community in general to rejoice in celebration at the end of another peace mission — provided that it had been successful.

Unfortunately, however, that is not our experience today as the Security Council proceeds to vote on a draft resolution terminating the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA), because Mr. Jonas Savimbi has once again dashed our best hopes for peace, which have grown over the past three years and since 1994, when the Lusaka Protocol was signed. We should underscore here that Mr. Savimbi, with this new act of betrayal of the peace efforts developed by the Angolan Government and the international community, must never again be counted upon to assist in resolving the Angolan conflict, because his personal agenda is incompatible with any understanding that may be reached concerning the termination of the conflict in Angola.

Mr. Savimbi is trying to seize power at all costs. Since he was unable to do so through the 1992 elections, he will pursue his relentless campaign to seize power through the force of arms so long as he can count on support and *matériel* from certain quarters in continuing to wage war in Angola.

The Angolan Government believes that if there were greater commitment on the part of the international community and a more exacting mechanism for monitoring compliance with the United Nations sanctions, Mr. Savimbi and his armed group would soon be neutralized militarily and that conditions would then be conducive to the reestablishment of peace in Angola.

This will become feasible only if we all act in common cause towards the same objectives, which are essentially to help Angola put a definitive end to the state of war that has been the scourge of our country for the past 30 years. This is a deep-felt conviction of the Angolan Government. We do not believe in the good intentions of any country that acts in a manner other than that we have described, even if it does so under the pretext of helping Angola to become peaceful. Such so-called contributions are useful only if made in close coordination with the Angolan Government. In this connection, we would like to direct an appeal to the countries neighbouring Angola to break off all contacts with Mr. Savimbi and to suspend all logistical support that enables him to wage war in Angola.

Concerning Zambia, the Angolan Government firmly believes that the current diplomatic démarches will prompt Zambian authorities to become ever more vigilant in preventing Zambian territory from continuing to be used as a point of trans-shipment for the military and logistical *matériel* that Mr. Savimbi needs for his military campaign. We firmly believe that as a result of a new cooperation framework between the Angolan Government and the United Nations, new and more stringent measures will be taken to isolate and neutralize Mr. Savimbi.

We hope that telecommunications sanctions will be adopted by all Member States.

We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to praise the role played by the sanctions committee and the new and renewed impetus imparted to its activities. We encourage the committee to do its best so that all Member States will comply with the sanctions as imposed.

After deliberating here in New York with the members of the Security Council on a wide range of concepts on the follow-up configuration of the United Nations representation in Angola, we are now ready to submit to our central Government those proposals that in our view are best suited to the model that the Angolan authorities would like to see in place in our country. Within a few days we will convey our position to the Security Council.

In closing, I would like to express on behalf of the Angolan people our deep appreciation to the United Nations for the efforts developed by United Nations Angola Verification Missions I, II and III and by the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola. We would also like to pay deeply felt tribute to all United Nations personnel who sacrificed their own lives for the cause of peace in Angola. Although the results have fallen short of an unqualified success, many positive aspects were seen, and for that we sincerely thank you.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia, The Honourable Keli S. Walubita, on whom I now call.

Mr. Walubita (Zambia): Allow me, first of all, to deliver to you, Sir, to the Secretary-General, and to all the members of the Security Council, warm and fraternal greetings from President Chiluba and the people of Zambia.

Let me begin by thanking you and all the other members of the Security Council for allowing my delegation to address this body today. The purpose of my address today is to put on record the concerns of my Government about allegations that have been made by the Government of Angola that Zambia is providing logistical and military support to UNITA in order to perpetuate the war and the suffering of the Angolan people. To this effect, the Government of Angola has issued threats to wage war against Zambia and other alleged supporters of UNITA.

It is a matter of public knowledge that Zambia has played a pivotal role in the liberation struggle of southern Africa, as well as in the search for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the region. Given the fact that Zambia was among the earliest countries to gain independence in the region, we provided sanctuary to virtually all the liberation movements that were fighting for the independence of their respective countries. These include both the MPLA, which constitutes the current Government of Angola, and UNITA, which is presently fighting against the Government.

We took this decision fully aware of the consequences entailed by such a heavy responsibility. Indeed, the cost of this undertaking in human and economic terms has been enormous to my country. Many of our nationals lost their lives and our economic infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, were destroyed by hostile colonial and minority regimes that surrounded us.

In spite of these threats to our young independence and sovereignty, Zambia steadfastly continued to provide sanctuary to liberation movements because of our strong conviction that our own peace and security could not be guaranteed so long as the neighbouring countries remained under colonial and minority rule.

It is in this spirit that Zambia, together with the international community, invested 14 months of its time, energy and resources to facilitate the negotiations between the MPLA and UNITA that culminated in the signing of the historic Lusaka Protocol on 20 November 1994.

I have given this historical background to demonstrate that Zambia has always been an ardent advocate of peace. It is therefore most unfortunate that Zambia stands accused today by the sister Republic of Angola of undermining the peace and stability that the international community through the United Nations and, indeed, the Angolan parties themselves, worked so hard to achieve.

My country finds it curious that these allegations are being repeated even today, in spite of the fact that most of them have already been jointly investigated with Angola. In addition, the United Nations Security Council sent Ambassador Mahugu of Kenya, the then Chairman of the committee on Sanctions against UNITA, to investigate the allegations, while the Organization of African Unity sent Ambassador Daniel Antonio, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on a similar mission. All the above investigations cleared Zambia. However, because of the persistent accusations by the Government of Angola, Zambia has extended an invitation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, to once again send a mission to Zambia to investigate the allegations.

It is a matter for regret that the Angolan peace process, as embodied in the Lusaka Protocol, has collapsed, owing to UNITA's failure to comply fully with the provisions of the Protocol. The conduct of UNITA in this regard is totally unacceptable, and has been condemned by Zambia. The collapse of the peace process is all the more lamentable in view of the fact that two thirds of the Protocol has been implemented. It is our view that, notwithstanding the current obstacles, the Lusaka Protocol still remains the best framework for a peaceful settlement of the Angolan conflict.

With the amount of time, energy and resources already invested, and with the progress made so far, it would be a great tragedy for the international community to abandon the Lusaka Protocol. Therefore, as the Council considers the winding down of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola, every effort should be made to ensure that a vacuum is not created which could lead to the worsening of the security situation in the southern African subregion. Such a situation would have an adverse impact on the security of my country. In fact, since the resumption of hostilities in Angola, there has been an increase in the flow into Zambia of illegal military weapons, which are being used for criminal activities. In addition, there has been an increase in the influx of refugees from Angola to Zambia.

The Government of Zambia is also concerned that these serious allegations by Angola are being made at a time when our mediation efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have reached an advanced stage. The allegations, therefore, are likely to undermine Zambia's mediation of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I wish to conclude my statement by assuring members of the Council that, notwithstanding the allegations by Angola, the Government of Zambia is fully complying with Security Council sanctions against UNITA. I also wish to reaffirm my country's unwavering commitment to peace and stability in the entire southern African region.

Zambia and Angola are sister countries, and we will endeavour to resolve our differences through bilateral means.

The President: I thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia for the kind words he addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1999/203) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1229 (1999).

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.3984

Security Council

Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

3984th Meeting

Friday, 26 February 1999, 11.10 a.m.

New York

President:	Fowler	(Canada)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Petrella
	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Kooijmans
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Slovenia	Mr. Türk
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Burleigh

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Third report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1998/1203/Add.1)

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1999/98)

99-85161 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Third report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1998/1203 and Add.1)

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1999/98)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Japan, Kenya, Senegal and Togo, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic) took a seat at the Council table; Mme. Kaba Camara (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Elaraby (Egypt), Mr. Takasu (Japan), Mr. Mahugu (Kenya), Mr. Ka (Senegal) and Mr. Kpotsra (Togo) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Security Council will now begin its considération of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. Members of the Council have before them the third and fourth reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, which are contained in documents S/1998/1203 and Addendum 1 and S/1999/98, respectively. Members of the Council also have before them document S/1999/122, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Gabon, Japan, Kenya, Senegal, Togo and the United States of America.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following other documents: S/1999/116 and S/1999/121, letters dated 22 December 1998 and 4 February 1999, respectively, from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council; S/1999/132, letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of the Central African Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; and S/1999/200, letter dated 24 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

(*spoke in English*)

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*interpretation from French*): The draft resolution that we shall be adopting on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) marks an important stage in the pursuit of the process of peace and national reconciliation begun in January 1997 with the conclusion of the Bangui Agreements.

MINURCA has made significant achievements since the beginning of its deployment on 15 April 1998. The gains of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) have been preserved, and the Central African Republic has remained, as the Secretary-General states in his 18 December 1998 report, "an island of relative stability in an otherwise war-torn region". *(S/1998/1203, para. 38)*

The successful holding of legislative elections on 22 November and 13 December 1998 was also an important stage in the reestablishment of national institutions which had been almost entirely destroyed by the successive rebellions that battered the country in 1996. It would be regrettable if the success of these elections were now tarnished by sterile political quarrels.

The formation, during the holding of these elections, of the first restructured unit of the Central African armed

forces and the continuation of the demobilization programme supported by the United Nations Development Programme were two encouraging signs of the will of the Central African authorities to restructure their military forces.

This satisfactory progress, however, should not obscure the fact that serious difficulties remain. It would be a grave mistake for Central African authorities and political leaders of any stripe to believe that the simple presence of MINURCA would make it possible to resolve all the problems the country must deal with. First, this is because MINURCA's mandate is time-limited; the draft resolution specifies that the Mission must end on 15 November 1999 at the very latest. Second, this is because, obviously, the responsibility for national reconciliation devolves, above all, on the Central Africans themselves. Finally, this is because it is essential to implement as soon as possible the structural reforms on which the long-term recovery of the Central African Republic depends.

The French delegation believes that the achievement of the commitments made by the President of the Central African Republic in the letter that he addressed to Secretary-General on 23 January 1999 is essential. As was most clearly stated in the statement made on 18 February 1999 on behalf of the Security Council by its President, the success, the future mandate and the continued presence of MINURCA in the Central African Republic are closely linked to the implementation of these commitments. Further, the observable progress in their implementation will be reviewed every 45 days, as set forth in the draft resolution that we will be adopting.

Among the most important points that the Security Council will be taking into account during these evaluations are the pursuit of constructive and consensual dialogue among all the Central African political parties in order to allow for the effective functioning of the new national assembly and calm preparations for free and equitable presidential elections; the continuation of the restructuring of the Central African armed forces; the implementation of economic and financial objectives defined in cooperation with the international financial institutions; and respect for the commitment that was solemnly made by the Central African Government itself — and for which we congratulate it — to avoid involvement in any external conflict.

In this context we do not doubt for a moment that the adoption of this resolution and the extension of the mandate of MINURCA will provide an outstanding opportunity for the authorities and the Central African political parties to make progress in their dialogue and in national reconciliation. Any other attitude would be damaging to the pursuit of the United Nations Mission and to the Central African Republic itself.

Mr. Jagne (Gambia): The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic has been very instrumental in the search for peace in that country. It should also be recognized that the people of the Central African Republic made it possible for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) to be largely successful in the execution of its mandate. In fact, following his recent trip to Bangui, Assistant Secretary-General Annabi informed the Council that all his interlocutors, including President Patassé, unanimously agreed to keep MINURCA. The President's letter to the Secretary-General recommitting himself to the reforms is a clear testimony to this commitment.

Let us also remember that those reforms are not only political but also economic and financial. Vital international institutions such as the World Bank are also involved. It is needless to refer to the letter of the President of the Bank to this effect. MINURCA's role and those of the other international institutions are mutually reinforcing.

Furthermore, it goes without saying that without the presence of MINURCA, the progress made so far would not have been possible, and therefore we can state with guarded optimism that with the continued assistance of the rest of the international community, the problems of the Central African Republic could be resolved satisfactorily. In this connection, the continued cooperation of all the parties in the Central African Republic is absolutely necessary.

Considering the fact that the overall situation is still volatile, exacerbated by the conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in the light of all the issues raised by the Secretary-General in his report, my delegation is of the strong view that it would be premature to wind up the mandate of MINURCA. Consequently, we agree with the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of MINURCA until 15 November 1999, mindful of the fact that such an extension is tied to a number of conditions and conditionalities. In any case, at this crucial stage when the country is engaged in a process of painful reforms, the least that the Council should do is to support that process.

Mr. Kooijmans (Netherlands): The Netherlands will vote in favour of the draft resolution on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), first of all to express its firm support for the positive contribution of MINURCA to the political process in the Central African Republic.

Secondly, the Netherlands welcomes the fact that the draft resolution integrates in a comprehensive way essential aspects of peace-building and reconstruction, such as a transparent electoral process, the restructuring of the armed forces and economic reform.

In this approach, it is indeed essential that the Government of the Central African Republic continue to work closely with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Development Programme and the Bretton Woods institutions. The Netherlands expects that important lessons can be learned — and applied elsewhere — from the implementation of this comprehensive approach in the Central African Republic, and in this regard we are looking forward to the progress reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. Chen Xu (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): China supports the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA). Recently, conflicts have repeatedly broken out in many areas of Africa. However, the Central African Republic has maintained relative stability and has smoothly carried out legislative elections. This is the result of the effort and cooperation of the Government and people of Central African Republic and MINURCA. MINURCA in particular has played a special role in this respect. It has won the widespread appreciation of the people and of various parties in the country. Once again, this has demonstrated that the Security Council is clearly able to do concrete work for African countries and peoples.

China has always maintained that the Bangui Agreements and the National Reconciliation Pact are the bases for bringing about peace and stability in the Central African Republic, and the various sides should fully and faithfully implement them. We fully support the Government and people of the Central African Republic in carrying out reforms in the political, economic, social and security areas. We urge the international community to provide the necessary assistance for this. At the same time, we also believe that such reforms, especially the restructuring of the armed forces, are the internal affairs of a country, and the Security Council should not intervene too much. We therefore hope that, in future consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General will fully seek and respect the views of the host Government.

China sincerely hopes that the various parties in the Central African Republic will settle their disputes soon, smoothly carry out presidential elections and support MINURCA in providing assistance in this respect. Finally, I should like to emphasize the importance of paragraph 16 of the draft resolution. We appeal to the international community to help the Central African Republic to bring about sustainable economic and social development so as to achieve genuine and lasting peace and stability.

Mr. Burleigh (United States of America): The United States will join the consensus with other Council members in voting to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) until 15 November 1999. Our support reflects our concern over the deteriorating regional security situation in Central Africa and our respect for the Council's strong desire to continue this mission.

It must be clearly noted, however, that our decision to endorse the extension of MINURCA's mission was made despite our deep misgivings concerning the pace of reform and the need for Government-coordinated programmes to improve the political, economic, social and military situation in the Central African Republic. We remain concerned that the Central African Republic Government will not meet its commitments under this draft resolution.

We are, however, mindful of the need not to abandon African peacekeeping at this time of increased conflict on the continent, as well as the need to strengthen democracy in the Central African Republic. We therefore have agreed to one further extension of the mandate of MINURCA until 15 November. In our view this operation should be brief, a temporary window of opportunity during which the Government must implement stabilizing reforms.

In agreeing to this extension, we have two continuing concerns. First, the Government of the Central African Republic must energetically avail itself of this renewed opportunity to institute the kind of reforms that engender long-term stability. This is a task that must be fulfilled by the Government, not by MINURCA peacekeepers. We hold President Patassé and his Government responsible for implementing long-overdue reforms and for meeting the specific benchmarks set forth

in this draft resolution, in accordance with the commitments made by President Patassé in his letter of 23 January to the Secretary-General. If the Government of the Central African Republic fails to meet these commitments, the United States will, in consultation with other Security Council members, seek to review the merits of maintaining a peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic through mid-November.

Secondly, this draft resolution clearly states that MINURCA will end on 15 November. The Security Council and the United Nations Secretariat must begin work now to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to non-assessed peace-building. Any delays in planning for this transition would be counter-productive and would not serve the best interests of the citizens of the Central African Republic. It is vital that the United Nations take steps now to formulate programmes for continued reform after MINURCA departs. Members of the group of Friends of the Central African Republic and United Nations officials must not delay in beginning to formulate a mechanism to ensure that economic restructuring, good-governance reforms, demobilization and military restructuring continue after the peacekeeping forces depart.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Canada.

(*spoke in French*)

Since its inception last year, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) has contributed immensely to the establishment and maintenance of peace and security in the Central African Republic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of MINURCA, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for the outstanding service they have provided to the United Nations, to the people of the Central African Republic and to the international community. Their efforts deserve our highest praise.

To date, MINURCA has successfully provided vital assistance in ensuring the security necessary to allow peace to take root firmly in the Central African Republic. Canada is pleased to have been part of this Mission. We are particularly gratified by the crucial role MINURCA played in the successful conduct of legislative elections late last year.

However, we have not yet reached our goal. Much has been achieved over the past year, but many of the security, economic and political problems facing the country are still unresolved. The Central African Republic remains relatively calm and stable, but there is the danger that neighbouring conflicts may spill over into the Central African Republic and undo the progress achieved. Many of the agreed economic and financial reforms have yet to be implemented. Moreover, there remains another vital step to be taken: the conduct of presidential elections. The achievement of free and fair elections will be a concrete sign of progress in political development and a reaffirmation of the basic democratic covenant between the people and the State.

(*spoke in English*)

The draft resolution before us today reflects these realities. It comes as a response to the recommendations of the Secretary-General, which we support and commend. In particular, we agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that MINURCA's continued presence at its current strength and force structure remains critical to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Central African Republic. Our view is that MINURCA will likely remain necessary until the forthcoming presidential elections. Canada anticipates remaining in MINURCA until its core objectives are realized.

That said, Canada firmly believes that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace, economic recovery and the conduct of free and fair elections lies not with the United Nations or with MINURCA, but rather with the Government, the political leaders and the people of the Central African Republic. We urge both the Mouvance Présidentielle and the opposition parties to cooperate closely to achieve the resumption of the kind of constructive political dialogue which is indispensable to continuing stability in the Central African Republic.

We expect President Patassé to honour his commitments to comply fully with the Bangui Agreements and the National Reconciliation Pact and to translate these commitments into concrete measures. The success, the future mandate and the ongoing presence of MINURCA are closely linked to the fulfilment of these undertakings, as clearly reflected in the draft resolution before us today. In this regard, we look forward to receiving the periodic reports of the Secretary-General.

We believe that the continued presence of MINURCA is a tangible demonstration of the commitment of the United Nations and the international

community to peace and security in Africa. Canada, as a member of the Security Council and of the group of Friends of the Central African Republic, as well as a troop contributor to MINURCA, is proud to be a part of this effort.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1999/122.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1230 (1999).

The Security Council has thus concluded the voting procedure.

(*spoke in French*)

The representative of the Central African Republic has asked to speak. I give him the floor.

Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic): This is my first opportunity to address the Council since you, Sir, assumed the office of the presidency. Permit me to congratulate you. Your tenure of office is almost over, but we have seen how you have performed with dignity, expediency and a great sense of fair play. You have my admiration and respect. I would like also to congratulate your predecessor for a job very well done.

Obviously, in a democracy, it is important for the Government and the opposition to work together and to cooperate in furthering the interests of State. This must be encouraged by the Council and all of us. We should be careful, however, not to be seen as micromanaging the Government and attempting to distribute ministerial and/or parliamentary posts, as such an approach would not be helpful.

Yesterday, the Constitutional Court rendered its decision that those opposition members who defected to the Government side have every right to do so. Therefore, the majority of the President's party in government is now official.

The Bretton Woods group that has been in our country for the past two weeks has concluded its work satisfactorily and has indicated to the Government its agreement to reestablish economic cooperation with us. This morning, I was informed that the first vice-presidency of the National Assembly has been offered to the opposition.

Once again, may I, on behalf of my Government, take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Council for all the help rendered to us at this difficult period of our history. Let me reassure the Council of my Government's determination to fulfil all its obligations under the Bangui Agreements, as well as the commitments made by my President in his letter to the Council.

The President: I thank the representative of the Central African Republic for his kind words addressed to me.

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.3984*

Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

3984th Meeting
Friday, 26 February 1999, 11.10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Fowler	(Canada)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Petrella
	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Kooijmans
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Slovenia	Mr. Türk
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Burleigh

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Third report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1998/1203/Add.1)

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1999/98)

* Reissued for technical reasons.

99-85173 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Third report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1998/1203 and Add.1)

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (S/1999/98)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Japan, Kenya, Senegal and Togo, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fernandez (Central African Republic) took a seat at the Council table; Mme. Kaba Camara (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Elaraby (Egypt), Mr. Takasu (Japan), Mr. Mahugu (Kenya), Mr. Ka (Senegal) and Mr. Kpotsra (Togo) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. Members of the Council have before them the third and fourth reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, which are contained in documents S/1998/1203 and Addendum 1 and S/1999/98, respectively. Members of the Council also have before them document S/1999/122, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Gabon, Japan, Kenya, Senegal, Togo and the United States of America.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following other documents: S/1999/116 and S/1999/121, letters dated 22 December 1998 and 4 February 1999, respectively, from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council; S/1999/132, letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of the Central African Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; and S/1999/200, letter dated 24 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

(*spoke in English*)

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*interpretation from French*): The draft resolution that we shall be adopting on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) marks an important stage in the pursuit of the process of peace and national reconciliation begun in January 1997 with the conclusion of the Bangui Agreements.

MINURCA has made significant achievements since the beginning of its deployment on 15 April 1998. The gains of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) have been preserved, and the Central African Republic has remained, as the Secretary-General states in his 18 December 1998 report, "an island of relative stability in an otherwise war-torn region". *(S/1998/1203, para. 38)*

The successful holding of legislative elections on 22 November and 13 December 1998 was also an important stage in the reestablishment of national institutions which had been almost entirely destroyed by the successive rebellions that battered the country in 1996. It would be regrettable if the success of these elections were now tarnished by sterile political quarrels.

The formation, during the holding of these elections, of the first restructured unit of the Central African armed

forces and the continuation of the demobilization programme supported by the United Nations Development Programme were two encouraging signs of the will of the Central African authorities to restructure their military forces.

This satisfactory progress, however, should not obscure the fact that serious difficulties remain. It would be a grave mistake for Central African authorities and political leaders of any stripe to believe that the simple presence of MINURCA would make it possible to resolve all the problems the country must deal with. First, this is because MINURCA's mandate is time-limited; the draft resolution specifies that the Mission must end on 15 November 1999 at the very latest. Second, this is because, obviously, the responsibility for national reconciliation devolves, above all, on the Central Africans themselves. Finally, this is because it is essential to implement as soon as possible the structural reforms on which the long-term recovery of the Central African Republic depends.

The French delegation believes that the achievement of the commitments made by the President of the Central African Republic in the letter that he addressed to Secretary-General on 23 January 1999 is essential. As was most clearly stated in the statement made on 18 February 1999 on behalf of the Security Council by its President, the success, the future mandate and the continued presence of MINURCA in the Central African Republic are closely linked to the implementation of these commitments. Further, the observable progress in their implementation will be reviewed every 45 days, as set forth in the draft resolution that we will be adopting.

Among the most important points that the Security Council will be taking into account during these evaluations are the pursuit of constructive and consensual dialogue among all the Central African political parties in order to allow for the effective functioning of the new national assembly and calm preparations for free and equitable presidential elections; the continuation of the restructuring of the Central African armed forces; the implementation of economic and financial objectives defined in cooperation with the international financial institutions; and respect for the commitment that was solemnly made by the Central African Government itself — and for which we congratulate it — to avoid involvement in any external conflict.

In this context we do not doubt for a moment that the adoption of this resolution and the extension of the mandate of MINURCA will provide an outstanding opportunity for the authorities and the Central African political parties to make progress in their dialogue and in national reconciliation. Any other attitude would be damaging to the pursuit of the United Nations Mission and to the Central African Republic itself.

Mr. Jagne (Gambia): The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic has been very instrumental in the search for peace in that country. It should also be recognized that the people of the Central African Republic made it possible for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) to be largely successful in the execution of its mandate. In fact, following his recent trip to Bangui, Assistant Secretary-General Annabi informed the Council that all his interlocutors, including President Patassé, unanimously agreed to keep MINURCA. The President's letter to the Secretary-General recommitting himself to the reforms is a clear testimony to this commitment.

Let us also remember that those reforms are not only political but also economic and financial. Vital international institutions such as the World Bank are also involved. It is needless to refer to the letter of the President of the Bank to this effect. MINURCA's role and those of the other international institutions are mutually reinforcing.

Furthermore, it goes without saying that without the presence of MINURCA, the progress made so far would not have been possible, and therefore we can state with guarded optimism that with the continued assistance of the rest of the international community, the problems of the Central African Republic could be resolved satisfactorily. In this connection, the continued cooperation of all the parties in the Central African Republic is absolutely necessary.

Considering the fact that the overall situation is still volatile, exacerbated by the conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in the light of all the issues raised by the Secretary-General in his report, my delegation is of the strong view that it would be premature to wind up the mandate of MINURCA. Consequently, we agree with the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of MINURCA until 15 November 1999, mindful of the fact that such an extension is tied to a number of conditions and conditionalities. In any case, at this crucial stage when the country is engaged in a process of painful reforms, the least that the Council should do is to support that process.

Mr. Kooijmans (Netherlands): The Netherlands will vote in favour of the draft resolution on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), first of all to express its firm support for the positive contribution of MINURCA to the political process in the Central African Republic.

Secondly, the Netherlands welcomes the fact that the draft resolution integrates in a comprehensive way essential aspects of peace-building and reconstruction, such as a transparent electoral process, the restructuring of the armed forces and economic reform.

In this approach, it is indeed essential that the Government of the Central African Republic continue to work closely with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Development Programme and the Bretton Woods institutions. The Netherlands expects that important lessons can be learned — and applied elsewhere — from the implementation of this comprehensive approach in the Central African Republic, and in this regard we are looking forward to the progress reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. Chen Xu (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): China supports the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA). Recently, conflicts have repeatedly broken out in many areas of Africa. However, the Central African Republic has maintained relative stability and has smoothly carried out legislative elections. This is the result of the effort and cooperation of the Government and people of Central African Republic and MINURCA. MINURCA in particular has played a special role in this respect. It has won the widespread appreciation of the people and of various parties in the country. Once again, this has demonstrated that the Security Council is clearly able to do concrete work for African countries and peoples.

China has always maintained that the Bangui Agreements and the National Reconciliation Pact are the bases for bringing about peace and stability in the Central African Republic, and the various sides should fully and faithfully implement them. We fully support the Government and people of the Central African Republic in carrying out reforms in the political, economic, social and security areas. We urge the international community to provide the necessary assistance for this. At the same time, we also believe that such reforms, especially the restructuring of the armed forces, are the internal affairs of a country, and the Security Council should not intervene too much. We therefore hope that, in future consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General will fully seek and respect the views of the host Government.

China sincerely hopes that the various parties in the Central African Republic will settle their disputes soon, smoothly carry out presidential elections and support MINURCA in providing assistance in this respect. Finally, I should like to emphasize the importance of paragraph 16 of the draft resolution. We appeal to the international community to help the Central African Republic to bring about sustainable economic and social development so as to achieve genuine and lasting peace and stability.

Mr. Burleigh (United States of America): The United States will join the consensus with other Council members in voting to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) until 15 November 1999. Our support reflects our concern over the deteriorating regional security situation in Central Africa and our respect for the Council's strong desire to continue this mission.

It must be clearly noted, however, that our decision to endorse the extension of MINURCA's mission was made despite our deep misgivings concerning the pace of reform and the need for Government-coordinated programmes to improve the political, economic, social and military situation in the Central African Republic. We remain concerned that the Central African Republic Government will not meet its commitments under this draft resolution.

We are, however, mindful of the need not to abandon African peacekeeping at this time of increased conflict on the continent, as well as the need to strengthen democracy in the Central African Republic. We therefore have agreed to one further extension of the mandate of MINURCA until 15 November. In our view this operation should be brief, a temporary window of opportunity during which the Government must implement stabilizing reforms.

In agreeing to this extension, we have two continuing concerns. First, the Government of the Central African Republic must energetically avail itself of this renewed opportunity to institute the kind of reforms that engender long-term stability. This is a task that must be fulfilled by the Government, not by MINURCA peacekeepers. We hold President Patassé and his Government responsible for implementing long-overdue reforms and for meeting the specific benchmarks set forth

in this draft resolution, in accordance with the commitments made by President Patassé in his letter of 23 January to the Secretary-General. If the Government of the Central African Republic fails to meet these commitments, the United States will, in consultation with other Security Council members, seek to review the merits of maintaining a peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic through mid-November.

Secondly, this draft resolution clearly states that MINURCA will end on 15 November. The Security Council and the United Nations Secretariat must begin work now to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to non-assessed peace-building. Any delays in planning for this transition would be counter-productive and would not serve the best interests of the citizens of the Central African Republic. It is vital that the United Nations take steps now to formulate programmes for continued reform after MINURCA departs. Members of the group of Friends of the Central African Republic and United Nations officials must not delay in beginning to formulate a mechanism to ensure that economic restructuring, good-governance reforms, demobilization and military restructuring continue after the peacekeeping forces depart.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Canada.

(*spoke in French*)

Since its inception last year, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) has contributed immensely to the establishment and maintenance of peace and security in the Central African Republic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of MINURCA, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for the outstanding service they have provided to the United Nations, to the people of the Central African Republic and to the international community. Their efforts deserve our highest praise.

To date, MINURCA has successfully provided vital assistance in ensuring the security necessary to allow peace to take root firmly in the Central African Republic. Canada is pleased to have been part of this Mission. We are particularly gratified by the crucial role MINURCA played in the successful conduct of legislative elections late last year.

However, we have not yet reached our goal. Much has been achieved over the past year, but many of the security, economic and political problems facing the country are still unresolved. The Central African Republic remains relatively calm and stable, but there is the danger that neighbouring conflicts may spill over into the Central African Republic and undo the progress achieved. Many of the agreed economic and financial reforms have yet to be implemented. Moreover, there remains another vital step to be taken: the conduct of presidential elections. The achievement of free and fair elections will be a concrete sign of progress in political development and a reaffirmation of the basic democratic covenant between the people and the State.

(*spoke in English*)

The draft resolution before us today reflects these realities. It comes as a response to the recommendations of the Secretary-General, which we support and commend. In particular, we agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that MINURCA's continued presence at its current strength and force structure remains critical to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Central African Republic. Our view is that MINURCA will likely remain necessary until the forthcoming presidential elections. Canada anticipates remaining in MINURCA until its core objectives are realized.

That said, Canada firmly believes that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace, economic recovery and the conduct of free and fair elections lies not with the United Nations or with MINURCA, but rather with the Government, the political leaders and the people of the Central African Republic. We urge both the Mouvance Présidentielle and the opposition parties to cooperate closely to achieve the resumption of the kind of constructive political dialogue which is indispensable to continuing stability in the Central African Republic.

We expect President Patassé to honour his commitments to comply fully with the Bangui Agreements and the National Reconciliation Pact and to translate these commitments into concrete measures. The success, the future mandate and the ongoing presence of MINURCA are closely linked to the fulfilment of these undertakings, as clearly reflected in the draft resolution before us today. In this regard, we look forward to receiving the periodic reports of the Secretary-General.

We believe that the continued presence of MINURCA is a tangible demonstration of the commitment of the United Nations and the international

community to peace and security in Africa. Canada, as a member of the Security Council and of the group of Friends of the Central African Republic, as well as a troop contributor to MINURCA, is proud to be a part of this effort.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1999/122.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1230 (1999).

The Security Council has thus concluded the voting procedure.

(*spoke in French*)

The representative of the Central African Republic has asked to speak. I give him the floor.

Mr. Fernandez (Central African Republic): This is my first opportunity to address the Council since you, Sir, assumed the office of the presidency. Permit me to congratulate you. Your tenure of office is almost over, but we have seen how you have performed with dignity, expediency and a great sense of fair play. You have my admiration and respect. I would like also to congratulate your predecessor for a job very well done.

Obviously, in a democracy, it is important for the Government and the opposition to work together and to cooperate in furthering the interests of State. This must be encouraged by the Council and all of us. We should be careful, however, not to be seen as micromanaging the Government and attempting to distribute ministerial and/or parliamentary posts, as such an approach would not be helpful.

Yesterday, the Constitutional Court rendered its decision that those opposition members who defected to the Government side have every right to do so. Therefore, the majority of the President's party in government is now official.

The Bretton Woods group that has been in our country for the past two weeks has concluded its work satisfactorily and has indicated to the Government its agreement to reestablish economic cooperation with us. This morning, I was informed that the first vice-presidency of the National Assembly has been offered to the opposition.

Once again, may I, on behalf of my Government, take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Council for all the help rendered to us at this difficult period of our history. Let me reassure the Council of my Government's determination to fulfil all its obligations under the Bangui Agreements, as well as the commitments made by my President in his letter to the Council.

The President: I thank the representative of the Central African Republic for his kind words addressed to me.

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.3985

Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

3985th Meeting
Saturday, 27 February 1999, 5.30 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Fowler	(Canada)
Members:	Argentina	Ms. Ramirez
	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Ms. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. Kooijmans
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Slovenia	Mr. Türk
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Burleigh

Agenda

The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

Identical letters dated 27 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/215)

99-85167 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 5.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

Identical letters dated 27 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/215)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them identical letters dated 27 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of a letter dated 27 February 1999 from the President of Eritrea addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council, document S/1999/215.

(*spoke in French*)

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its resolutions 1177 (1998) of 26 June 1998, 1226 (1999) of 29 January 1999 and 1227 (1999) of 10 February 1999 which called on Ethiopia and Eritrea to refrain from armed conflict and to accept and implement the Framework Agreement as approved by the Central Organ Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution on 17 December 1998 (S/1998/1223, annex).

"The Security Council demands an immediate halt to all hostilities and calls on the parties to refrain from the further use of force.

(*spoke in English*)

"The Security Council welcomes the acceptance by Eritrea at the Head of State level of the OAU Framework Agreement and recalls the prior acceptance of the Agreement by Ethiopia. The OAU Framework Agreement remains a viable and sound basis for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

"The Security Council reaffirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"The Security Council expresses its willingness to consider all appropriate support to implement a peace agreement between the two parties.

"The Security Council expresses its continuing support for the efforts of the OAU, the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, Ambassador Sahnoun, and concerned Member States to find a peaceful resolution to the border dispute.

"The Security Council remains actively seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1999/9.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.